

# CHANCE MEETING AND EXCHANGE OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE CHAMPIONS.

## CORBETT FITZ MEET IN THE MUD.

The Two Champions Exchange Compliments of a Negative Sort.

ONLY A WAR OF WIND.

The Cornishman Calls His Adversary a "Gent" and Offers a Hand to Shake.

CORBETT'S RETURN COURTESY.

Refers to His Twin Principal as "A Dead One"—Hostilities Averted and Peace Again Reigns.

Carson, Nev., March 10.—Corbett and Fitzsimmons were face to face on the prison road this morning. More than that, they had "slanging match" and for a few moments it looked as if the championship will which is scheduled for St. Patrick's Day would be anticipated by a rough and tumble encounter in the Carson mud. It was a highly sensational incident, and outside of the camp companions of the two big fighters the only witnesses of it were Homer Davenport and myself. It is for me to relate the occurrence as faithfully and accurately as I can. Davenport is at the present moment in a back room embellishing the rough sketch of the scene which he made on the spot.

As I told in yesterday's dispatch Corbett arranged for a tramp from his quarters to the Carson prison this morning. He was accompanied by Jim Jeffries, Jim Ryan, with whom Corbett practices springing, and a San Francisco friend of the champion, who desires that his identity remain undivulged.

**The Party at the Prison.**  
At the prison the party was joined by Architect Donohoe, who drove out in a buggy, and by Davenport and the writer, who followed in another buggy. A half-hour or so was spent in inspecting the prehistoric foot prints of man and beast and in looking around the jail, the convicts meanwhile keeping as close to the party as was compatible with prison rules.

At 10:30 Corbett, Ryan, Jeffries and the gentleman from San Francisco started toward Carson on foot. Donohoe got into his buggy and soon passed them on the road. There was a little delay in bringing the Journal team around, and just as "Davie" and myself were about to jump on board, we noticed Fitzsimmons and Corbett coming along the highway from the big house of Cook's Grove. Running down to the public fence which overlooks the road, I halted Fitzsimmons, saying: "If you have been here three minutes sooner, you would have met your rival."

"To Jeelcho with him," replied Fitzsimmons, and he turned to the effect that he went past the point where I stood. I told him:

"I see them now," said the Cornishman. "Get a move on you, Hickey, and we'll show them what road work is."

Bob and his companion went away at a swinging gait with Davenport and myself trailing at their heels in the buggy.

**Davenport Looked for Fun.**  
"There will be some fun here," remarked the famous caricaturist. "It is a lucky thing that we are the only newspaper folks around."

On ahead about 150 yards were the Corbett people. They had Laddie, the mascot, and another dog with them, while Fitz and Hickey were accompanied by the big black house Xarum. The Corbett party could be seen picking their steps through the mud and jumping from side to side. Fitz and Hickey stuck religiously to the middle of the road and the distance which separated the two parties diminished rapidly.

When they were within 100 yards of each other Corbett stopped and looked around. He knew then for the first time that Fitzsimmons was behind him. "Come along, Jim," shouted the so-called villain in "Gentleman Jack," but Laddie is spunky, though small, and he showed his teeth and dared the Great Dane to battle.

**Then Corbett Splintered.**  
Presently Corbett faced about and rejoined his companions. He bent his head toward Sprinter Ryan and the pair started out at a 12-second gait, covering about fifty yards. Just as they pulled up Fitz and Hickey splintered, and Davenport smashed a buggy wheel trying to keep our livery man with the procession.

Fitzsimmons's tactics looked like a challenge to the opposition, and Corbett and those with him were quick to notice it. Corbett and Ryan ran again, and Hickey and Fitzsimmons followed suit. When all parties reached into a line over toward the other wing of the leading phalanx. The situation was an embarrassing one, and Hickey was the first to break it up.

"Good morning, gents," cried the Cornishman's sparring partner.  
"Good morning, good morning," replied Corbett's three companions, turning their heads.

"Good morning, everybody," chimed in Fitzsimmons from the opposition. "Good morning," from the opposition.

**Championship Amateurs.**  
"Good morning, Jim," added Fitz, ranging up alongside Corbett.

"Good morning," responded Jim in sonorous, long-drawn-out tones, which had a decided footling smack to them. So far so good. Fitzsimmons and Corbett were now side by side, and they walked a couple of steps with their shoulders brushing. Fitzsimmons pushed his hand sideways over to Jim, and looked down at it.

"Oh, no," said Jim. "I'll shake hands with you if you like me over there on the 17th; not before." They were just abreast of the back track at this time, and Jim emphasized his remarks by pointing to the new arena. Fitzsimmons was apparently dumfounded. He went on a cou-

## THE JOURNAL'S GREAT CARSON STAFF.

The championship contest will be described for this paper by masters of English and also by professors of the manly art.

The List of Writers:

Ex-Senator John J. Ingalls.  
William W. Naughton.  
James J. Corbett.  
George Siler, Referee.  
Mrs. Robert Fitzsimmons.  
Dan Stuart, Promoter.

Governor Reinhold Sadler.  
T. T. Williams.  
Robert Fitzsimmons.  
William Muldoon.  
Mrs. James J. Corbett.  
Al. Smith, Stakeholder.

ple of steps and then stopped and turned about.  
"What was that," he asked of Corbett.  
"I said I'd shake hands with you if you like me on the 17th," Fitzsimmons either did not catch the words or pretended he didn't.

"What?" he repeated.  
"The 17th," repeated Corbett, "until his face almost touched Fitzsimmons. The Cornishman had a leer on his countenance and it looked as if another word from either would have caused fists to fly. "Jim," said the man from San Francisco in a low warning voice, and the danger of a fight between the two champions seemed imminent, and the Cornishman turned and walked on.

**No Dead Ones Desired.**  
"Oh, I see," said Fitzsimmons; "there will be a live one on the 17th."

"I am glad of it. I hate to have to go against a dead one," replied Corbett. "You are at the present moment in a back room embellishing the rough sketch of the scene which he made on the spot."

"You just keep along practising at that stuff," man, yelled Corbett, in return. "And say, Fitzsimmons, don't forget to bring the dog with you."

Bob, who had taken to the sidewalk, and read the rules through the first time. That is, he read the rules through the first time. That is, he read the rules through the first time. That is, he read the rules through the first time.

"Look at him," yelled Jim. "Why he looks like a lightweight! The fellow is worrying himself to the bone, and if the fight doesn't come off soon he will be a shadow."

In another moment the Cornishman was out of range, and the distance between the fact was moved to the proportion that it had diminished previously.  
**Thought Fitz Was Rattled.**  
Corbett laughed and joked about the incident, and asked those around what they thought of it. "I think Fitz was rattled when you stood there eyeing each other," said the San Francisco visitor. "He heard what you said right enough, but he could not think of something suitable to fling back at you."

"I think he had a gall to ask me to shake hands, after the way he has talked about me," said Corbett. "I am glad he came out to see me as he did. He gave me a chance to size him, and if he isn't fretting over the outlook, I am not a judge."

The Corbett party turned off toward Shaw's Springs, where they reached the railroad track, while Fitzsimmons kept right along, and turned down the main street of the city. He halted at the Journal headquarters, where we caught up to him.

**Criticism Corbett's Manners.**  
"Corbett looks well," said Bob. "I never saw him looking better in his life. I can't say that I think much of his manners, though. He came out into my territory and I did not know he was coming. He must have expected in a sort of way that he would meet me, and I suppose he had it all out and dried beforehand what he would say to me if we chanced to meet."

"I did not, after all," said Bob. "I learned he was on the road in front of me, and I sprang at certain places every morning, and we did exactly the same thing to-day. Hickey knows where we come to the place where we begin running, and he always starts off without waiting for me to tell him. I could see from the way things were going that we were bound to come up with Corbett and his gang, and I don't suppose any reasonable person will contend that we shouldn't have lagged behind just to avoid a meeting. I had no idea, of course, that Corbett would refuse to shake hands. I thought we had got past all that kind of thing and were looking forward to a manly turn-up in the ring to see which is the champion. If he had taken my offer of a hand grip in the spirit in which it was intended I would have passed right along about my business, and I feel spiteful about this morning's work, though, and it will be the aim of my existence to make Corbett regret his discourtesy when we face each other on the 17th."

W. W. NAUGHTON.

## CORBETT'S CLOSE STUDY.

He Carefully Reads the Referee's Suggestions, but Withholds Comment.

Carson, Nev., March 10.—When Corbett received Referee Siler's interpretation of the Queensberry rules to-day he studied it closely. He got along very nicely until he came across the paragraph which says:

"Pivot blows, missing with either hand and whipping back with the elbow, meeting an opponent with or deliberately striking him with the elbow or knee, are barred and will be considered foul."

"I am not quite clear as to what Siler means," said Corbett. "It reads to me as if he has got the pivot blow tangled up in some way with the elbow smash. I wanted it made clear that the pivot blow is barred."

The fact that Corbett was in doubt regarding Siler's references to the pivot blow reached the referee's ears, and he hurried out to Shaw's Springs to explain more fully. In the meantime, however, Corbett read the paragraph over again in the presence of a Journal man and satisfied himself that it was correct as it stood.

"I see now," said he, "that that comma makes all the difference. The way I read it at first it looked to me as if Siler mentioned pivot blows and then went on to explain that pivot blows meant missing with either hand and whipping back with the elbow. It is all clear now, though. Pivot blows are barred, and so are other blows with the elbow or knees. When Siler arrived Corbett said:

"It's all right. I read the paragraph over a second time, George, and I grasp every meaning fully."

Corbett was asked subsequently what he thought of Siler's manifesto.

**Corbett's View of It.**  
"It's this way," said Jim, "those rules are the most important thing that has come up yet. There should be no misunderstanding about them, and there should be no secrecy. It is not only necessary that Fitzsimmons and myself should know what is expected of us, but it is essential that every person who is in that arena on the 17th should be acquainted with the rules under which we are to fight."

"More than that, it is important that every one who reads of this fight either before or after it occurs, should be thoroughly conversant with the rules. When things are in that condition, every one will be able to judge whether it is Fitzsimmons or myself who is in fault in case something occurs which is contrary to the rules. For these reasons, I am inclined to go very slowly. I have merely glanced at Siler's statement, and I will read it over carefully two or three times between now and bedtime. I will have my seconds present and will read it over aloud to them. In all probability, I will not ask them to comment on the rules, at least not to-day. I want to decide this matter solely on my own responsibility, as by doing so I will get a clearer impression of what the rules provide for and will fix them better in my mind. I will sleep on the matter to-night, and to-morrow will state definitely whether they suit me or not."

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**First Impressions Treacherous.**  
Asked to give his first impressions of Siler's efforts to explain the fine points of the Queensberry rules, Corbett said: "First impressions are treacherous. You look over a thing once and you think it is all right and when you go at it a second time you find holes that you could drive a coach and four through. For these reasons I would not care to go on record as to what my first impressions are. I will risk saying, 'I think that the importance of the affair fully warrants this move. I am confident that both want to win solely and wholly on their merits. Neither of you can afford to have the slightest suspicion of doubt cloud the title which will belong to the victor.'

**Rules of the Contest.**  
To that end, I herewith hand you the rules and certain interpretations under which you are to battle:  
Rule 1—To be a fair, standing boxing match, in a twenty-four foot ring, or as near that as practicable.  
Rule 2—The rounds to be of three minutes duration, one minute time between rounds.  
Rule 3—The referee must see that the contestants are properly equipped, and if they are not, he must get up unassisted, ten seconds to be allowed him to do so, the other man, meanwhile to return to his corner. If when the fallen man is on his legs, the round is to be resumed and continued until the three minutes have expired. If one man fails to come to the scratch in the ten seconds allowed, it shall be in the power of the referee to give his award in favor of the other man.  
Rule 4—A man hanging on the ropes in a helpless state, with his toes off the ground, shall be considered down.  
Rule 5—No seconds or any other person to be allowed in the ring during the rounds of the fight.  
Rule 6—Should the contest be stopped by any unavoidable interference, the referee to name time and place, as soon as possible, for finishing the contest, so that the match must be won or lost, unless the backers of both men agree to draw the stakes.  
Rule 7—The gloves to be fair-sized boxing gloves, of the best quality, and new.  
Rule 8—Should a glove burst or come off it must be repaired to the referee's satisfaction.  
Rule 9—One man on one knee is considered down, and if struck the man is entitled to the stakes.  
Rule 10—No shoes or boots with springs allowed.  
Rule 11—The contest in all other respects to be governed by the revised rules of the London Prize Ring.

The first three rules need no comment, as they are plain, simple and understood by almost everybody. Rule 4, however, requires some analysis, as some of the points are often misunderstood.

The rule says: "If either man fall, through weakness or otherwise, he must get up, unassisted, ten seconds to be allowed him to do so, the other man meanwhile to return to his corner. If when the fallen man is on his legs, the round is to be resumed and continued until the three minutes have expired. If one man fails to come to the scratch in the ten seconds allowed, it shall be in the power of the referee to give his award in favor of the other man."

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## REFEREE SILER'S READING OF RING RULES.

He Sends to the Two Fighters His Interpretation of the Queensberry Code and Offers Some Wise Suggestions as to Amendment and Improvement.

HOW THE EMINENT PERSONAGES RECEIVED THE INNOVATIONS.

Neither Was Disposed to Talk Long or Deeply Over the Propositions, but Preferred to Think—Corbett the Better Satisfied of the Two—Trouble from the Fitzsimmons Camp Predicted.

Carson City, Nev., March 10.—To James J. Corbett, Esq., and Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq., Carson City, Nev.:  
Gentlemen—Herewith I hand you each the rules of the Marquis of Queensberry, under the provisions of which you are to contend for the heavy weight championship of the world in this city on March 17, 1897. Accompanying the rules I hand you some suggestions and instructions. These are based upon careful study, research, equity and fairness. You are principals to what will be the greatest contest of modern times. You have both trained carefully and successfully. The principals and public are alike engrossed to an extent never before manifested in a like encounter. While it is a departure from the old rules, it is a departure in a battle like this a week in advance of the meeting. I think that the importance of the affair fully warrants this move. I am confident that both want to win solely and wholly on their merits. Neither of you can afford to have the slightest suspicion of doubt cloud the title which will belong to the victor.

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